

Message Text

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TAGS: OPERATIONS CENTER FOR SECRETARY' S PARTY OVIP

(ROGERS, WILLIAM P)

SUBJECT: NEW YORK TIMES SUMMARY MAY 24.

THE NEW YORK TIMES LED TODAY MAY 24 WITH THE SQUABBLE BETWEEN MCCORD' S FORMER LAWYER GERALD ALCH AND HIS CURRENT ATTORNEY BERNARD FENSTERWALD OVER WHETHER MCCORD INTENDED OR NOT TO " GET" NIXON." UNDER A FOUR COLUMN HEADLINE READING " MCCORD HEARS HIS FORMER LAWYER DISPUTE TESTIMONY AND ALSO IMPLY HE SOUGHT TO ' GET' THE PRESIDENT", THE PAPER CARRIED ON PAGE ONE PROMINENTLY PLAYED STORIES ABOUT RICHARDSON' S CONFIRMATION BY THE SENATE; AN ANALYSIS OF NIXON' S 1970 SECURITY PROGRAM IN WHICH THE BLACK PANTHERS AND SABOTEURS WERE THE TARGETS; AND THE FACT THAT TWENTY- TWO SENATORS AND CONGRESSMEN GAVE NIXON FULL SUPPORT AT A WHITE HOUSE MEETING. ANOTHER PAGE ONE STORY ANNOUNCED THAT THE FORD MOTOR COMPANY WILL PAY ONE MILLION DOLLARS IN TERROR BLACKMAIL TO FORESTALL FURTHER ATTACKS ON FORD COMPANY OFFICIALS IN ARGENTINA. THE MONEY IS TO GO TO HOSPITALS FOLLOWING THE WOUNDING OF TWO FORD EXECUTIVES BY MACHINE GUNNERS IN FORD PLANTS IN BUENOS AIRES.

PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS IN THE WATERGATE AFFAIR AS REPORTED BY THE TIMES WERE:

1) MCCORD' S FORMER LAWYER, GERALD ALCH QUESTIONED THE CREDIBILITY OF THE CONVICTED WATERGATE CONSPIRATOR AND UNCLASSIFIED

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SUGGESTED TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE THAT MCCORD HAD PARTICIPATED IN AN ANTI- ADMINISTRATION FEUD.

2) A HIGH- POWERED DOMESTIC COUNTER- INSURGENCY PROGRAM PROPOSED

BY THE WHITE HOUSE IN 1970 WAS DROPPED BECAUSE J. EDGAR HOOVER REFUSED TO SANCTION ILLEGAL ACTIVITIES BY FBI AGENTS WITHOUT WRITTEN AUTHORIZATION FROM NIXON. THE PROGRAM, SAID TO BE AIMED AT BLACK PANTHERS, POTENTIAL ARAB SABOTEURS, SOVIET SPIES AND ANTI- WAR RADICALS, WAS MENTIONED BY PRESIDENT NIXON, WHO SUGGESTED THAT POOR LIAISON AMONG FEDERAL AGENCIES WAS THE REASON IT WAS ABANDONED.

3) PRESIDENT NIXON DREW A STANDING OVATION FROM TWENTY- TWO REPUBLICAN CONGRESSIONAL LEADERS WHEN HE CITED HIS CONCERN FOR NATIONAL SECURITY IN EXPLAINING THE ORIGINS OF WHITE HOUSE EFFORTS TO COVER UP WATERGATE.

4) THE SENATE CONFIRMED THE NOMINATION OF RICHARDSON AS ATTORNEY GENERAL BY A VOTE OF EIGHTY- TWO TO THREE AND VOICED PRAISE BOTH FOR MR. RICHARDSON AND HIS CHOICE OF ARCHIBALD COX AS SPECIAL WATERGATE PROSECUTOR.

IN A LEAD EDITORIAL HEADED " MORE OF THE TRUTH..." THE TIMES COMMENTED: " THE PRESIDENT ATTEMPTS TO JUSTIFY THIS INVOLVEMENT BY ASSERTING THE CLAIMS OF NATIONAL SECURITY AND INTERNAL SECURITY, BUT WHAT COMES THROUGH IS THE PICTURE OF A GOVERNMENT FRIGHTENINGLY OUT OF CONTROL AND DIRECTED BY MEN SEEMINGLY INCAPABLE OF MAKING THE MOST ELEMENTARY DISTINCTIONS BETWEEN FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND DOMESTIC AFFAIRS, BETWEEN THE INTERESTS OF THE NATION AND THE INTERESTS OF A PARTICULAR PRESIDENT OR POLITICAL PARTY, BETWEEN WHAT IS LEGAL AND ILLEGAL AND BETWEEN WHAT MIGHT BE PERMISSIBLE IN A GRAVE EMERGENCY AND WHAT IS ROUTINE PROCEDURE....

" MR. GRAY HAD GOOD REASON TO DOUBT WHETHER THE PRESIDENT REALLY WANTED A PROPER, THOROUGH INVESTIGATION OF WATERGATE. THE MONSTROUS ATTEMPT TO MASK THE WATERGATE CRIME AS A COVERT CIA OPERATION CAN ONLY BE SAID TO HAVE FLOWED NATURALLY FROM THE PRESIDENT' S EXPRESSED WISHES, WHETHER OR NOT HE SPECIFICALLY ORDERED THE ATTEMPT."

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IN A FOLLOW- UP EDITORIAL HEADED "... FOOTNOTE", THE TIMES ADDED: " RATIONAL DISCOURSE BETWEEN PRESIDENT NIXON AND HIS CRITICS ABOUT THE PHENOMENON CALLED ' WATERGATE' HAS BEEN FOUNDERING ON AN UNFORTUNATE VERBAL IMPRECISION. ' I HAD NO PRIOR KNOWLEDGE OF THE WATERGATE OPERATION', THE PRESIDENT REITERATED IN THE OFFICIAL SUMMARY OF HIS TUESDAY STATEMENT. OBVIOUSLY HERE, AND PROBABLY IN ALL THE PRECEDING WHITE HOUSE DISCLAIMERS, THE TERM ' WATERGATE' REFERS TO THE ACTUAL BREAK- IN AT THE DEMOCRATIC NATIONAL COMMITTEE ON JUNE 17, 1972. ILLEGAL AND OUTRAGEOUS THOUGH THAT EPISODE WAS, PARTISANS OF THE PRESIDENT WOULD PROBABLY BE RIGHT IN ACCUSING THE NEWS MEDIA OF SENSATIONALISM IF THAT WAS ALL THERE WAS TO IT.

" THERE WAS, OF COURSE, MUCH MORE TO IT: THE DELIBERATE
ESPIONAGE APPARAT TO PENETRATE AND SABOTAGE THE ACTIVITIES
AND DECISIONS OF POLITICAL OPPONENTS, THE EMPLOYMENT OF
EXTRA- LEGAL MEANS AVAILABLE THROUGH PRESIDENTIAL POWER
FOR PARTISAN POLITICAL ENDS, THE SUBVERSION OF THE PROCESSES
OF THE FBI AND THE CIA, ETC., ETC., ETC., -- ALL THE MISDEEDS OF
THE LAST COUPLE OF YEARS NOW FLOODING INTO THE PUBLIC AWARENESS.
THIS IS WHAT THE NATIONAL DESPAIR OVER ' WATERGATE' IS ALL
ABOUT, NOT A DEED SO MUCH AS THE MENTALITY AND VALUE
SYSTEM WHICH MADE IT POSSIBLE."

A SHIRTTAIL ON ARGENTINE STORIES DATELINED BRASILIA
DESCRIBED SECRETARY ROGERS' WINDUP OF HIS VISIT TO BRAZIL,
WITH A SPECIAL BYLINE. " THE WATERGATE AFFAIR, " RAN THE
FIRST PARAGRAPH, " HAS HAD NO SPECIFIC EFFECT ON UNITED
STATES FOREIGN RELATIONS IN LATIN AMERICA, ACCORDING
TO SECRETARY OF STATE WILLIAM P. ROGERS, WHO IS NEARING
THE END OF HIS EIGHT- NATION TOUR OF THE AREA".
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